

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

OHIRA ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 159-100; Confirmation No. 7241

Appl. No. 10/576,188

TC/A.U. 1741

Filed: February 7, 2007

Examiner: Fortuna

For: CAST-COATED PAPERS AND PROCESSES FOR PREPARING THEREOF

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January 19, 2011

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

As discussed with Examiner Fortuna on January 6, 2011, applicants are concerned that an important part of the argument in the Amendment and response of November 16, 2010 has been overlooked. In the previous reply to the previous Office Action, applicants asserted non-obviousness of the claimed invention based on the technical feature that a surface treatment step is conducted between the drying step and the rewetting step of the rewet casting method. However, in the present Office Action, there is no mention about this technical feature.

Applicants are aware that a surface treating step using a calender is well known in the art, but such surface treatment is usually conducted at the end of a papermaking process, namely after a coating layer is formed on a base paper. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calender>

On the other hand, surface treatment step in the present invention is conducted **during** the cast-coating procedure, instead of after the cast coating procedure. As stated in the response of November 16, 2010, the present invention uses the rewet casting method, and the surface treatment step is conducted during the rewet casting method, in particular, between the first